management works, in critical areas. Since the financial year 2004-05, the Government of India has provided central assistance amounting to Rs.971.13 crore to the States upto 31.1.2009 under different plan schemes.

Repair works of Kosi embankment

†228.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to leakage in embankment of Kosi river at Kusaha during last year, five districts in Bihar had been immersed in water which had been admitted as a National calamity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the repair works are going on the above site; and

(d) if so, the date by which this work will be completed and the amount spent by Government till date on this construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to breach in Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage near Kusaha (Nepal), five districts in Bihar, namely, Madhepura, Araria, Supaul, Saharsa and Purnea were reported affected by the unprecedented flood. As per the press note released from the Disaster Management Department of the Government of Bihar dated 6.11.2008, the total population affected was reported as 33.56 lakh and the number of villages as 993.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The repair works of Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage near Kusaha (Nepal) are under implementation and scheduled to be completed by 31st March, 2009 and as per the works planned by the State Government of Bihar. An amount of Rs. 39.90 crore was released in October, 2008 to the Government of Bihar as an advance for this work.

Construction of Dams

229. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Bihar is destined to face the disaster year after year unless high dams constructed in the upper reaches of at least three rivers – Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati, all of which originate from Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Government has worked out any preventive plan in details through negotiation with Nepal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For early implementation of high dams on river Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati in Nepal, the Government of India is in constant dialogue with the Government of Nepal. For this purpose, a Joint Project Office -Saptakosi and Sunkosi Investigations (JPO-SKSKI) has already been set up in August, 2004 at Biratnagar (Nepal), for conducting detailed field investigations, in order to prepare

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Detailed Project Report(s) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme in Nepal, jointly. In addition, JPO-SKSKI has also been entrusted the task of carrying out the Feasibility Level Study of Kamala Multipurpose (Dam) Project and the Preliminary Study of Bagmati Dam Project in Nepal.

(c) Does not arise.

Study on inter-linking of rivers' programme

230. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted study on the economic impact of Inter-Linking of Rivers' Programme;

(b) if so, whether NCAER had completed the study and submitted its reports to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government on the report submitted by the NCAER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The report was submitted by NCAER in April, 2008. The conclusions/ recommendations given by NCAER in its report mention various benefits of Interlinking of river programme such as additional benefits of Irrigation and Power, increase in growth rate of agriculture, growth of direct & indirect employment, improvement in the quality of life of people in rural areas and mitigation of floods & drought. The recommendations also include certain action points like setting up National Commission for Basin management, improving cost recovery from irrigation projects & formation of Water Users Association. At present, no interlinking project under National Perspective Plan (NPP) is under implementation. Therefore, the stage has not come for taking decision on the action points suggested in the report.

Project report on inter-linking of rivers

231. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has spent several crores during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the preparation of feasibility and detailed project report of river links under Inter-linking of Rivers' Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of feasibility and project report of inter-linking of rivers; and

(d) the time by which the task of/inter-linking of rivers is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 45.45 crore during XI Plan up to 31st January, 2009 for preparation of Pre-feasibility/Feasibility/Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of river links under National Perspective Plan (NPP) and intrastate links.

(c) NWDA after carrying out various preliminary studies has identified 30 links under National